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The conference determined that the future practical plans of the reform work must be to stress quality rather than quantity, to make reasonable demands, to adapt needs to possibilities, to advance steadily on a firm foundation, and to train cadres who can take part in heavy industry, defense industry, and other closely related fields to meet the needs of national industrial construction.

The conference recognized that the most serious problems in the present higher industrial education are: too heavy teaching loads, overworked teachers and students, poor sanitary facilities for both teachers and students, and the failure of students to master their studies.

The conference analyzed the reasons why teacher and student loads were too heavy and discovered that the chief cause was that the educational administrative guidance organs were making excessive demands of the students and teachers by requiring them to carry out their assigned duties too quickly. A study made by the conference to discover why the requirements of the administrative guidance organs were so excessive, disclosed them to be the results of: (1) subjectivism which existed in the educational leadership organs, (2) complexity and long-range goals of educational reform which were not sufficiently recognized by the administrative guidance organs, and (3) insufficient attention given to teaching standards, equipment needs, and student progress. Thus the conference realized that the key to the problem of overcoming the deficiencies in the educational system is to get rid of this tendency to make excessive demands.

Additional steps required in eliminating deficiencies as set forth by the conference were: (1) avoid and oppose the conservative thinking which keeps the work at a standstill, (2) learn Soviet theory and apply it to real conditions in China, and (3) be realistic and adjust demands to circumstances and conditions.

The conference recognized that up to the present higher educational reform has been led by the bourgeois reactionaries and resolved that: (1) reform must be led by the proletariat, (2) educational reform must aid national industrial construction, and (3) ideological reform among the teachers must go hand in hand with the raising of their technical levels.

The conference determined that the reform work must be conducted in the following order: (1) define the purpose of professional training, (2) draft or revise the teaching plans in accordance with the professional training aims, (3) revise teaching principles in accordance with the place and function of each course in the educational plan, and (4) prepare study programs in accordance with the teaching principles.

The conference determined that the higher industrial education standard and special courses must be: The standard course to train engineers whose scientific and technical ability will be suited to China's actual conditions; the special course to train high-grade technicians as set forth in the decisions adopted by the Harbin Technical University's Third Educational Research Activity Conference held in February 1953.

The conference made some practical decisions with regard to teaching plans, teaching principles, materials, research work, etc., and pointed out that there is definite need to coordinate educational work, to raise the present teaching performance, and to train new teachers. Old teachers must adopt a cooperative attitude and raise their standards. The intelligentsia who have been indoctrinated but who are still following the wrong path must be required to carry out self-criticism. Young teachers must be properly guided by the older teachers. Although it is a long-term project, the systematic study of Marxism-Leninism is a necessary prerequisite to raise the political level of the teachers and the political and ideological level of teaching.

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The conference discussed the reorganization of courses and departments in every school, the setting up of special courses, the recruiting of students, the apportionment of instructors and research students and other problems of educational work. Steps have already been taken by the Ministry of Higher Education of the Central People's Government to solve many of these problems.

A preliminary study of the direction and scope of the development of each school in the next 5 years was made so that the schools could make long-range plans. In its investigation of the higher educational leadership work for the past year, the conference discovered that teaching reform had lacked a clear directive, practical guidance, sufficient ideological leadership, prompt transmission of plans, a clear definition of the duties and relationships of the various departments of the schools, and promptness in the solution of problems.

During the conference reports were presented by Ma Hsu-lun, Minister of Higher Education; Ts'eng Chao-lun, Vice-Minister of Higher Education; Chu Te, Deputy Chairman of the Central People's Government; Hsi Chung-hsun, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Culture and Education of the Government Administration Council; and Chia T'o-fu, Deputy Chairman of the National Planning Committee.

The summary report was made by Yang Hsiu-feng, Vice-Minister of Higher Education, who stressed the importance of thoroughly studying problems at hand on the basis of past experience, strengthening political theoretical study, raising the leadership level, and actively taking part in the antibureaucracy struggle. Yang also appealed strongly to the people to strengthen the leadership within the schools to overcome all types of confusion both within and outside of the schools which affect the teaching program. He emphasized action.

In outlining the future tasks of the Ministry of Education, Yang said "It is essential to: (1) redraft the educational plans and the principles of teaching to raise the quality of the teachers, (2) give heed to the development of the active and spontaneous work of each department, locality, and school, (3) study and define the direction and scope of each school in accordance with our national economic construction needs in order that the work of the school may be stabilized and may progress according to plan."

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